

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
JANUARY 7, 2026 to APRIL 29, 2026

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
NONEMERGENCY LAWS IS
JULY 29, 2026

PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MAINE REVISED STATUTES,
TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.

Augusta, Maine
2026

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$0
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$0

Sec. 3. Effective date. This Act takes effect September 1, 2026.

Effective September 1, 2026.

CHAPTER 730 S.P. 836 - L.D. 2137

An Act to Modify Provisions of Law Governing Parking Enforcement on Property Accessible to the Public

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 10 MRSA §1500-LL, sub-§1-A is enacted to read:

1-A. Exemption. A municipality that has adopted an ordinance that regulates any parking rule applicable to property owned by the municipality and accessible to the public for the parking of motor vehicles and that includes fines, fees or charges for a violation of the ordinance is exempt from the requirements of subsection 1.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 731 S.P. 859 - L.D. 2141

An Act Regarding Enforcement of the Annual Reporting Requirement of the Laws Governing Unclaimed Beverage Container Deposits

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §3119, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2025, c. 241, §18, is further amended by enacting at the end a new first blocked paragraph to read:

An initiator of deposit that fails to report annually to the department in accordance with the requirements of this subsection commits a violation of this chapter, is subject to penalties under section 3111 and, as long as the violation exists, is prohibited from selling or distributing in the State any beverage container subject to the requirements of this chapter. A distributor or dealer

may not sell or distribute in the State any such containers of the initiator, and the department may remove from sale any such containers of the initiator.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 732 H.P. 1443 - L.D. 2154

An Act to Establish the Health Information Technology Fund to Support a State-designated Statewide Health Information Exchange

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §1730-B is enacted to read:

§1730-B. Health Information Technology Fund

The Health Information Technology Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established within the department.

1. Use of fund. The fund must be used to support the operation and sustainability of a state-designated statewide health information exchange operated in accordance with section 1711-C, subsection 18 and to meet the State's matching fund requirements to obtain federal funding to support the operation and sustainability of such an exchange. Funds received pursuant to subsection 2 may be used only for purposes directly related to the operation and sustainability of a state-designated statewide health information exchange. The department shall administer the fund in a manner that maximizes eligibility for available federal matching funds.

2. Source of funds; separate account; interest; nonlapsing fund. The fund is administered by the department. The fund consists of money appropriated or allocated by the Legislature, federal funds, grants, gifts and other funds from public or private sources. The fund must be held separate and apart from all other money, funds and accounts. Interest earned by the fund must be credited to the fund. Any unexpended balances remaining in the fund at the end of the fiscal year do not lapse and must be carried forward to the next fiscal year.

Sec. 2. Transfer of settlement funds. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State Controller shall transfer \$350,000 from the Administration - Attorney General, Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Department of the Attorney General from funds received from settlement agreements to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund no later than June 30, 2027.

Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

Health Information Technology Fund N565

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to support the operations of a state-designated statewide health information exchange and to meet the State's matching fund requirements for available federal funding.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$350,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$350,000

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 733

H.P. 1461 - L.D. 2173

An Act to Update the Laws Regarding Housing Developments and Accessory Dwelling Units

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §2463-B, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 385, §1, is amended to read:

§2463-B. Fire protection in accessory dwelling units

Fire suppression sprinklers are not required for an accessory dwelling unit unless the accessory dwelling unit is within or attached to a structure of that contains, or will contain upon completion of construction, more than 2 dwelling units, including accessory dwelling units. As used in this section, "accessory dwelling unit" has the same meaning as in Title 30-A, section 4301, subsection 1-C. This section may not be construed to exempt an accessory dwelling unit from fire protection requirements when the unit is located within or attached to a mixed-use or nonresidential building or when sprinkler protection is otherwise required based on occupancy classification, building use or hazard level under the National Fire Protection Association codes adopted pursuant to section 2452.

Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §4351-A is enacted to read:

§4351-A. Definition

As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, "public sewer system" means a sewer system managed, owned or operated by a municipality or quasi-municipal entity that is a municipal sewer department, a sewer district as defined in Title 38, section 1032, subsection 3, a standard district as defined in Title 38, section 1032, subsection 4 or a sanitary district formed under Title 38, chapter 11.

Sec. 3. 30-A MRSA §4360, as amended by PL 2025, c. 385, §3 and affected by §23, is further amended to read:

§4360. Rate of growth ordinances

1. Ordinance review and update. A municipality that enacts a rate of growth ordinance shall review and update the ordinance at least every 3 years to determine whether the rate of growth ordinance is still necessary and how the rate of growth ordinance may be adjusted to meet current conditions.

1-A. Definition; common scheme of development. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, "common scheme of development" means a plan or process of development that:

A. Takes place on contiguous parcels or lots in the same immediate vicinity; and

B. Exhibits characteristics of a unified approach, method or effect, such as:

(1) Unified ownership, management or supervision;

(2) Sharing common equipment or labor; or

(3) Common financing.

2. Differential ordinances. A municipality may enact rate of growth ordinances that set different limits on the number of building or development permits that are permitted in ~~designated rural~~ different areas. ~~A, except that a municipality may not enact or enforce rate of growth ordinances that limit residential development in designated growth areas, as defined in section 4301, subsection 6-C, except as authorized by this chapter subsection 3.~~

3. Ordinance requirements; growth areas. A municipality may adopt a rate of growth ordinance that applies to a designated growth area only if:

A. The ordinance is consistent with section 4314, subsection 3;

B. The ordinance sets the number of building or development permits for new residential dwellings, ~~not including permits for affordable housing,~~ at 105% or more of the mean number of total permits issued for new residential dwellings within the municipality during the 10 years immediately prior to the year in which the number is calculated. The mean is determined by adding together the total number of permits issued, ~~excluding permits issued for affordable housing,~~ for new residential dwellings for each year in the prior 10 years and then dividing by 10;

~~C. In addition to the permits established pursuant to paragraph B, the ordinance sets the number of building or development permits for affordable~~